

# Dialogic Reading

**Dialogic Reading** is one of the most powerful tools you can use to help your child get ready to learn to read. In easy terms, it is actively encouraging a dialogue about what you are reading with your child. This works best with picture books, but you can use these techniques even without a book.

## *How do I do it?*

**Ask open-ended questions about the pictures**, like “What is happening in this picture?” If your child doesn’t know what to say about a picture, provide something and have your child repeat it. As your child gets used to open-ended questions, ask your child to say more.

**Expand what your child says.** Keep the expansions short and simple. If your child says, “The bunny is wearing a coat,” respond, “Yes. The bunny is wearing a blue coat, isn’t he? Can you say that?” Have your child repeat your expansions. As your child gets used to open-ended questions, ask him or her to say more.

**If you have time, read a book twice.** The first time, just read the book as you normally would. The second time, ask questions while you are reading and let your child direct you through the book. Remember to praise and encourage your child as you explore the book together.

**The most important thing to remember when reading with your child is to make it a positive experience.** If your child is in a bad mood, put the book away for another time. If your child thinks of reading as a fun or comforting thing to do, he or she will be a better reader.